

THE KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS: THE STORIES OF KENTUCKY



WHAT'S MY STORY?

I'M A BOOK HOLLOWED OUT TO CARRY DRUG PARAPHERNALIA.

Some people checked into the Lexington Narcotic Farm voluntarily between 1935 and 1974. The legal system incarcerated others there. Anyone who tried to enter the drug rehabilitation facility was subjected to a thorough search. During these intake procedures, facility personnel confiscated items like this paperback edition of "The Cross of Lassitude" hollowed out to carry "the works"—drug paraphernalia. Among its contents are syringes, an eyedropper, cotton and a needle. The facility both treated and researched drug addiction, and its patients ran the gamut from well-known jazz musicians to addicted doctors to street junkies. The Narcotics Farm closed amid scandal and shifts in research and treatment.

Access this object (2007.4.13) and more than 100,000 others through the Kentucky Historical Society's [online object catalog](#) and learn the stories of Kentucky.



The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) educates and engages the public through Kentucky's history in order to confront the challenges of the future. KHS, an agency of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, is fully accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is a Smithsonian affiliate.

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